America's UTUR

A Weekly Review of News, Books and Public Affairs

May 8, 1960 Volume 2 Taxes Can Be Funny - Almost . . . Book Review Voluntary? Free? How Far Would He Get?

RHEE AND CASTRO

It is becoming increasingly difficult to escape an unpleasant feeling about the American State Department. It looks as if, pending the summit meeting this month with the chief Red slave master. the Department will do almost anything to butter up the communists. Recent events in Korea are a case in point. Ever since the uneasy armistice of seven years ago in the Korean War, the Reds have been gunning for the scalp of South Korean President Syngman Rhee. And they have been

aided by all our fuzzy-minded 'liberals' and do-gooders.

Number 19

Just before the current political upheaval in South Korea, Secretary Herter gave President Rhee a dressingdown which nearly bordered on insult - and helped bring about Rhee's resignation. The occasion was the riots by students in Korea over an election which had taken place more than a month earlier. I do not pretend to know whether the charges about 'rigging' in that election are true or not. I do know

that this is a favorite communist gimmick for stirring up hotheaded and unthinking youngsters to violent action. I also know that a country which has suffered for generations under the heel of foreign conquerors, cannot be expected to turn democratic (in our sense of the word) overnight. But I have searched in vain, in all the news about the events in Korea. for a mention of the fact that Syngman Rhee gave his country a constitution much like our own, or that he was the first man in the Orient to give the vote to women. I also searched in vain for the fact that since the armistice in Korea. more than 1600 Red infiltrators have been arrested - and these were only the ones the police could lay hands on.

However, it seems to me that all this is the business of the South Koreans - not of the American State Department. It will not do to say that we fought a war for South Korea, or that we have spent millions of dollars there. We did the same for England, France and other countries. But can you imagine Secretary Herter talking to their heads of government the way he talked to Rhee?

Most shocking of all, Syngman Rhee, who has always spoken in the kindest and respectful tones of the United States, gets a dressing-down about an election in his country. Fidel Castro, who does not even bother with elections, insults the United States almost daily. He and his pro-Red regime get only a slight slap on the wrist.

MIND-CONDITIONING

Here is a little footnote to the Korean story. It illustrates very well the kind of slanted news coverage we often get about events like this. Before the Second World War, Korea was a colony of Japan. When Syngman Rhee first came into office he moved into a building which had been constructed by the Japanese for their governor-general. Mr.

Rhee called it 'The Residence' and it was so referred to, at first, in American newspapers. Then our newspapers started calling it 'The Mansion.' Now, since it became the 'liberal' fashion to be anti-Syngman Rhee, most of our newspapers (including the N.Y. Times) refer to Rhee's residence as 'The Palace.' In this way, our minds were subtly condi-

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tioned to think of Rhee as an autocrat living in a palace.

While we are on this subject of mind-conditioning. have you noticed a change in the use of words in television and radio newscasts and in our newspapers in recent months? It probably is not deliberate on the part of all newscasters and reporters. but it must have started somewhere - maybe you can guess where. It used to be that when reports were made about big international events involving the Communist Empire and the countries outside the Iron Curtain, they were referred to as the Free World versus the communists, or the Free World versus the Soviet Union. Of course, the correct

phrase would be the Free World versus the Slave World. But you hear and read little of this any more. Now everything between Red Russia and the Free World is referred to as between 'East and West.' That phrase is not only inaccurate; it is meaningless. But it serves the purpose of a new soft-on-communism attitude by not branding the Red Slave World for what it is.

SOFTNESS ON COMMUNISM

Are we really getting soft on communism? According to J. Edgar Hoover, who ought to know, 'tolerance of the danger of communism continues to grow.' I am not sure this new softness is general among our people, but it certainly seems to have spread like a prairie fire among our leaders, and especially among what are known as 'molders of opinion.' Perhaps Mr. Hoover hit on the reason for this when he said: 'Today, those of us who actively oppose the subtle tactics of the Communist Party find ourselves subjected to mounting abuse and ridicule.' Mr. Hoover did not say so, but I suspect we have too many public figures these days who want to be

liked by everybody - includ-

ing the Reds.

The best illustration of this softness on communism among our leaders is their recent activities on the international scene. An example is the one just mentioned. Note the contrast between their blast at a friendly, anti-communist government in Korea - and their kid-glove heading of an unfriendly, pro-communist government in Guba.

Another example is the recent show of assumed indignation about South Africa in our State Department and in the United Nations. The South African government - whatever else you may think of it - is anti-communist. So it is fair game for reproaches about its racial policy. But the blacks in certain of the new nations in other parts of Africa play footsie with the Reds. So when these blacks murder thousands of their own people, the fact is greeted with dead silence on the part of the UN and the State Department.

Still another example was the big show of wrath and indignation over anti-semitic incidents in West Germany. These incidents, consisting mostly of swastika-painting, were carried on by scattered

crackpots and juvenile delinquents - with possibly an assist from Red agitators. The West German government took severe action, and roundly condemned the perpetrators. But West Germany is staunchly anti-communist, so the pundits in England and the United States wrote reams of copy about the 'resurgence of naziism in West Germany.' But last month a United States senator -Thomas Dodd of Connecticut - made a reasoned and documented report on antisemitism as a government policy in Soviet Russia. I read his report in the Congressional Record, but I could find hardly a mention of it in the numerous newspapers I read. So far as I know, the only national publication which printed the text of his speech was U.S. News & World Report. It is a startling document.

Keep in mind that antisemitism is a settled policy of the Soviet government, with whose head-butcher our President is about to hold a summit meeting. Senator Dodd said there is practically no difference between Hitler's anti-semitism and Khrushchev's. The only thing lacking so far is the gas chamber. And, as Senator Dodd reported, the Reds make up for this by using Siberia and firing squads as substitute instruments of death.

It seems to me that Senator Dodd put this whole strange new attitude in its proper perspective when he said:

'The free world is afflicted with an almost total collapse of its sense of proportion.' communism - any more than you can be soft with a smallpox epidemic.

The free world, and most

particularly the United States had better get back its sense

of proportion pretty quickly.

Most important, it and its

leaders had better realize

that it is impossible to be even a little bit soft on

- John T. Flynn

Foregoing items covered in Mutual network broadcast 5/1/60

Book Review TAXES CAN BE FUNNY - ALMOST

THE LAW AND THE PROFITS by C. Northcote Parkinson, 246 pages, Houghton-Mifflin, Boston. \$3.50.

Prof. Parkinson is a political scientist - but don't go 'way. He is a political scientist with a highly developed sense of humor. His knowledge of Taxation, its handmaiden Government Spending, and the progeny they spawn (Bureaucrats) is prodigious. Of course he is not alone in this knowledge, but Prof. Parkinson has the saving grace of being able to handle this most pressing of problems with wit and witticisms. Thus, while taxes are never palatable, reading about them and their effects in this little volume is. It is not only palatable, but pleasurable - if you can contain your ire at certain of the Professor's revelations.

Several years ago, in a small book which became an international best-seller, Prof. Parkinson propounded his First Law: 'Work expands so as to fill the time available for its completion.' Put differently, we might say bureaucracies always expand - never contract; or bureaucracy grows as more and more people do less and less work.

His present book, and Second Law, grew naturally from the first: 'Expenditure rises to meet income.' In other words, the more taxes a government collects, the more it spends—and the more bureaucrats it can hire to do less work. Here in the United States, at least, we might expand the Second Law to 'Expenditure rises to meet — and exceed —income,' as witness our nearly 290-billion-dollar federal debt.

However, Prof. Parkinson's concern is with endlessly rising and unlimited taxation — what it is doing to our system, our morals, our way of life, and what is in store for us if we do not stop it. He considers both British and American taxation, and also

provides a lively account of ancient and modern taxes. All this may sound inexpressibly dull, but the author has confounded all the clichés. He is an Englishman: he is a professor; he deals with an essentially gloomy and intricate subject. Yet he has managed to write a book which is spritely, humorous - even farcical - and still deadly serious in the corrective measures it proposes. Certain of his imaginary (?) scenes and dialogues in the Washington Spenderama would make hilarious TV skits. Read them for yourself and see.

- Rosalie Gordon

VOLUNTARY? FREE?

"I came out of college with a devoted commitment to critical analysis as an important tool for reasonable social change. That my devotion to this persuasion was terribly idealistic and practically useless was apparent the first day I was a paid public school teacher.

"On this day the superintendent, while addressing all 'his' teachers, advocated NEA (National Education Association) membership for all. He spoke of this 'voluntary, democratic professional organization of free members' with apparent

sincerity.

"He proved his devotion to democratic belief and behavior by telling us that he had ordered the swinging door between his secretary's office and his outer office removed. His talk closed with a plea for 100 percent NEA membership and the shocking information that his secretary already had each teacher's receipt for membership made out... "I didn't like this. I objected on semantic and ethical grounds, for I wanted my professional organization to be what he said it was. Objection overruled. I was told I was a 'rebel' and an 'agitator.' I was admonished to pay the dues

and 'get on the team' and 'cooperate.'

"The unwise use of coercion; the pressure against critical analysis of fundamental issues; the closed system of indoctrination and advancement; the insistence on obedience and 'channelled' communication; the suspicion of the motives and intelligence of the critic both within and out of Education ... are conditions I have consistently met in the world of professional education since that first joyless day more than a decade ago." - from a letter to the Council for Basic Education from an Indiana high-school teacher

HOW FAR WOULD HE GET?

"During World War II the United States sent over 11 billion dollars' worth of merchandise to the Soviet Union... Wiping out all that had been consumed, our government sought to reach a settlement with the Soviet government for 2.6 billion dollars' worth of unconsumed merchandise. After 15 years the best offer the communist government has made is only slightly over 10 cents on the dollar. Our government kept scaling down its demand to a low point of 30 cents on the dollar...
"The Soviet Union now says that in agreeing to open nego-

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tiations it 'had in mind' simultaneous consideration of trade and credit matters...Their offer now is to settle the debt on the basis of a few cents on the dollar provided we will loan them more than enough money to do it and make additional trade concessions. If one owed his bank \$1,000 and offered to settle for \$100 provided the bank would loan him another \$200, how far would he get?"

—CHRISTIAN ECONOMICS

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